



**EVALUATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR (IV) PROGRAM**

***SPECIAL INITIATIVE PROJECTS
IN RESPONSE TO
THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001***

FINAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Visitor Program (IV Program) brings current and emerging foreign leaders in government, media, politics, academia and other fields to the United States to confer with professional counterparts and gain a deeper understanding of the United States and its institutions and culture. The IV Program Special Initiative Projects were designed after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to bring leaders from countries with significant Muslim populations to the United States to exchange information, establish deeper dialogue, and increase mutual understanding between the people of their countries and the people of the United States.

The results reported here are based on surveys completed by 85 of 95 participants (89% response rate) from the ten IV Program Special Initiative Projects conducted between February and October 2002. The participants hail from 20 countries (Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the West Bank and Yemen) and represent a variety of professional backgrounds.

Key Findings

➤ **Increased Understanding**

As a direct result of the IV Program experience, participants reported an increased understanding of various topics. The average ratings for each topic – based on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (to a great extent) – are reported below.

The people and culture of the United States: 4.32	U.S. government and politics: 3.88
U.S. foreign policy: 3.79	U.S. democracy and institutions: 4.22
Diversity in the United States: 4.41	Religion in the United States: 3.86
Effect of 9/11 on global peace and security: 4.31	Effect of 9/11 on the people of the United States: 4.40

➤ **Mutual Understanding**

Participants were asked on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (to a great extent), the extent to which the program experience helped to accomplish the following goals (average ratings reported):

- Promote closer relations between the United States and their country and/or region: **3.99**
- Strengthen ties between people of the United States and their country and/or region: **4.10**
- Promote mutual understanding and mutual respect: **4.01**
- Provide a more informed and broader perspective of the United States: **4.44**
- **96.4%** reported that international exchanges are an important long-term investment in global peace and security.

➤ **Sharing Information**

- Participants reported that Americans they met were willing to share information with them: **92.9%**
- Participants also felt that Americans they met were willing to listen to them and appreciated the information they shared with them: **91.8%**
- Participants reported that they intended to share the information about the United States or the ideas they acquired while in the United States with their professional colleagues (**97.6%**), family and friends (**97.6%**), and home communities (**92.6%**).
- Participants felt they were able to better inform Americans about their country or region: **80.0%**
- Participants believe that they had an impact on the Americans they met while in the United States: **65.0%**

➤ **Perceptions about the United States**

Participants were asked to disagree or agree with a range of statements about the United States based on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Participants agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:

- The U.S. views its bilateral relationship with my country as important: **54.8%**
- The U.S. is interested in building partnerships with my country: **63.9%**
- Americans I met in the U.S. have little understanding of my country: **71.4%**
- The rights of religious and ethnic groups are protected in the United States: **73.8%**
- Americans value volunteerism: **73.5%**

➤ **Program Impact**

- **100%** of participants reported that their programs helped to develop an interest in professional collaboration with people they met in the United States.
- **69.4%** of participants reported that the program was extremely valuable to them *professionally* and **67.5%** reported that the experience was extremely valuable to them *personally*.

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. IV PROGRAM BACKGROUND	2
IV Program Special Initiative Projects	2
III. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	3
Project Scope	4
Survey Instrument and Data Collection	5
IV. FINDINGS	5
Impact of the September 11 Terrorist Attacks	5
International Relations and Mutual Understanding	6
Increase Understanding of the United States	7
Increase Understanding of Americans	8
Increase Understanding of Professional Themes	9
Provide and Share Information	11
Types of Information	12
Value and Expectations of the IV Program Experience and Activities	13
Participants' Future Plans	14
Summary of Findings	15
V. CONCLUSIONS	16
APPENDIX A	18
APPENDIX B	20

NOTE: All photos included in this report are courtesy of the “Working for Peaceful Change in a Democratic Society” project.



Participants from the “Working for Peaceful Change in a Democratic Society” project in Honolulu, Hawaii.

*“Our nation’s cause has always been larger than our nation’s defense. We fight, as we always fight, for a just peace – a peace that favors human liberty. We will defend the peace against threats from terrorists and tyrants. We will **preserve the peace by building good relations** among the great powers. And we will extend the peace by encouraging free and open societies on every continent.”*

President George W. Bush, West Point Commencement Address, May 2002

I. INTRODUCTION

Combating terrorism became our highest national priority immediately following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. The attacks demonstrated the need to “build good relations” and “encourage free and open societies” – to better understand, inform and influence the way others see us and to counter distorted images and misperceptions of the United States and its people. The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is in a unique position to support and contribute to this national effort through its international exchange programs which promote mutual understanding and closer ties among countries and peoples. In particular, ECA’s International Visitor (IV) Program has a long-standing history of strengthening the United States’ international relations by bringing current and future leaders to the United States. As of June 2002, 212 former International Visitors had become Heads of Government, including: Hamid Karzai (Afghanistan), Anwar Sadat (Egypt), Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher (United Kingdom), Gerhard Schroeder (Germany), Kim Dae-Jung (South Korea), Oscar Arias Sanchez (Costa Rica) and Ricardo Lagos (Chile).

ECA developed a *Post-September 11, 2001 Counter-terrorism Action Plan* in support of the war on terrorism. The goals of the plan are to increase foreigners’ understanding of the United States and U.S. foreign policy, provide foreign exchange visitors with accurate and balanced information about the United States and its people through firsthand experiences, share information and dialogue with moderates in Muslim countries, and broaden American understanding of Islam and predominantly Islamic countries to enhance mutual understanding.

As part of the plan, ECA’s Office of International Visitors conducted ten “Special Initiative” International Visitor (IV) projects that brought an increased number of participants from countries with large Muslim or Islamic populations to the United States and which addressed the Bureau’s counter-terrorism goals. Accordingly, the primary purpose of the evaluation of the Special Initiative IV projects was to assess the extent to which the projects helped meet ECA’s counter-terrorism goals. A secondary purpose was to assess changes in attitudes and perceptions of the United States and its people as a result of the program experience.

This report presents the aggregated results from the ten IV Program Special Initiative projects administered between February and October 2002. It demonstrates that the IV Program continues to be a highly effective mechanism for promoting mutual understanding. Data collection consisted of a survey designed by ECA’s Office of Policy and Evaluation that was completed by participants following their program.

Following this introduction, the report is organized into four sections. Section II presents background on the International Visitor Program and the IV Program’s Special Initiative projects. Section III presents the evaluation methodology. Section IV presents the evaluation findings and a summary of the findings, and Section V presents conclusions. Program administration recommendations are presented in Appendix A. The survey used for this evaluation is included, with response frequencies, in Appendix B.

II. IV PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The IV Program is authorized in accordance with Public Law 87-256, the *Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961* (or the *Fulbright-Hays Act*). The purpose of the Act is to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange. Established in 1940, the IV Program celebrated its 62nd Anniversary this year. On an annual basis, approximately 4,900 foreign visitors come to the United States as guests of the U.S. government. Most are fully funded by the U.S. government; about one-third of the visitors come at their own expense. More than 110,000 foreign visitors have participated in the program.

The primary goal of the IV Program is to increase mutual understanding through dialogue at the personal and professional levels. The program accomplishes this goal by creating opportunities for foreign visitors to meet and confer with their professional counterparts in the United States, to examine issues in their respective fields, and to gain a better understanding of American life and culture during their program. The visitors are generally current or potential foreign leaders in government and elected offices, non-government organizations, labor, media, academia, the arts, law enforcement and other professional fields. The visitors also experience home hospitality with families during their visits to U.S. communities, which adds to their appreciation of American traditions, diversity and culture. Visitors participate either individually or as part of a group in three to four week projects, usually beginning in Washington, D.C. and followed by more program activities in three or four other communities throughout the United States.

U.S. embassies nominate the IV Program participants. ECA's Office of International Visitors manages the IV Program through annual grants to domestic partner organizations that are responsible for the programmatic and logistical aspects of the program. In addition, ECA partners with Councils for International Visitors (CIVs) throughout the United States that represent 80,000 American volunteers through an annual grant to the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) located in Washington, D.C. The CIVs, in consultation with the domestic partner organizations and the Office of International Visitors, are responsible for developing tailored thematic programs for the International Visitors visiting their local communities, including making arrangements for home hospitality (informal lunches or dinners and occasional overnight stays) with local individuals and families.

IV Program Special Initiative Projects

As part of ECA's *Post-September 11, 2001 Counter-terrorism Action Plan*, ten Special Initiative projects were added to the Fiscal Year 2002 IV Program through supplemental funding. The primary purpose of the projects was to engage a greater number of young and emerging leaders from countries with large Muslim populations in a dialogue with their U.S. counterparts. Through this dialogue, the projects were intended to promote understanding and to counter misperceptions of and negative attitudes towards the United States. Participants met with officials from the Department of State, Department of Defense and other federal, state and local government officials, as well as with the media, schools and universities, non-governmental organizations, and religious and youth groups throughout the United States.

Participants were also given the opportunity to meet with Americans in their communities and homes when they visited a wide range of U.S. cities, including: *Washington, D.C.; New York, New York;*

Akron and Cleveland, Ohio; Tampa, Florida; Huntsville, Alabama; Los Angeles and San Francisco, California; Strassbourg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico; Window Rock, Arkansas; Houston, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; Grand Island and Lincoln, Nebraska; Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Atlanta, Georgia; Ann Arbor and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; Madison, Wisconsin; St. Louis and Columbia, Missouri, Phoenix, Arizona, Portland, Oregon; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

While visiting these cities, participants were given opportunities to speak at schools, universities or community centers, thereby helping to educate Americans about their countries and way of life while also learning about ours.



The projects focused on a variety of themes in support of ECA's counter-terrorism goals, including: the role and responsibility of the media; journalist ethics; civic responsibility and civic life; democracy building; racial, ethnic and religious conflict resolution; the diversity and tolerance of religion in America; and U.S. foreign policy-making. In addition, all of the projects included discussions on the September 11 terrorist attacks and the impact of terrorism on global peace and security. Most participants were also given the opportunity to visit Ground Zero in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia to gain an understanding of how those communities responded to the attacks.

III. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The primary goal of the evaluation of the IV Program Special Initiative projects was to assess the extent to which the projects met ECA's counter-terrorism goals:

- To provide accurate information about the United States
- To increase and deepen foreign understanding of the United States and U.S. goals through personal experiences with Americans
- To share information and establish dialogue with moderates in Muslim countries
- To broaden mutual understanding between the United States and predominantly Muslim countries

A secondary goal of the evaluation was to collect data to assess changes experienced by the International Visitors, such as:

- Changes in personal views and perceptions
- Changes in learning and knowledge gained
- Changes in understanding of the U.S. (post-September 11, 2001)
- Impact of September 11, 2001 on the participants

Project Scope

The evaluation was comprised of ten IV Program Special Initiative projects, incorporating 85 respondents out of a total of 95 participants (89.4% response rate), from 19 countries in the Near East, South Asia, East Asia and Central Asia. The projects were conducted between February and October 2002. The project participants included representatives of foreign ministries and ministries of defense, leaders of non-governmental organizations and local government, national government officials and spokespeople representing executive offices, journalists and editors in independent Islamic and Arabic broadcast and print media, community and civic leaders in diverse religious communities, and student leaders in educational institutions.

The table below illustrates the Special Initiative project titles and dates, countries represented, number of total participants per project and the number of survey respondents.

Project Titles	Project Dates	Countries Represented	Number of Participants	Number of Respondents
1. Independent Media and Foreign Policy Coverage	February 4-23, 2002	Kazakhstan and Tajikistan	8	5
2. The Role and Responsibility of the Media in a Democratic Society	February 9-22, 2002	Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco	3	3
3. Student Leaders and Civic Responsibility	February 17 – March 9, 2002	Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank and Yemen	12	11
4. Government-Media Relations and Security Issues	March 3-16, 2002	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	9	6
5. Journalism in Society	March 9 – April 6, 2002	Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand	10	8
6. Civic Journalism	March 25 – April 13, 2002	Algeria, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, West Bank, and Yemen	9	9
7. Conflict Resolution	March 25 – April 20, 2002	The Philippines	5	5
8. Foreign Policy Issues	March 27 – April 17, 2002	Pakistan	9	9
9. Role of Religion in America	April 13 – May 11, 2002	Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand	10	9
10. Working for Peaceful Change in a Democratic Society	September 23- October 19, 2002	Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand	20	20
Totals:		20	95	*85

***NOTE: The overall response rate was 89.4 percent.**

Survey Instrument and Data Collection

The Office of Policy and Evaluation, in consultation with the Office of International Visitors, developed the survey questionnaire and pre-tested it with participants of one project. Most participants completed the survey at the end of their stay in the United States, while a smaller number completed the survey back in their home countries. As necessary, the survey was translated into the native languages of the participants, and their responses in their native languages were then translated into English.

The survey contained nineteen questions, most of which were closed-ended with five-point scale responses. Several closed-ended questions also allowed participants to provide comments. A few open-ended questions also allowed participants to elaborate on their overall perceptions gained from their program experience and to share their impressions of the aftermath of September 11, 2001 in the United States.

The survey focused on several critical themes in support of the ECA counter-terrorism goals, including:

- Promote closer international relations and broaden mutual understanding
- Increase understanding of the United States through firsthand exposure
- Increase understanding of Americans through firsthand experience
- Provide accurate and balanced information about the United States, and engage Americans and visitors in dialogue (sharing of information and types of information)

In addition, the survey included questions about the impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the increase in understanding of professional themes, the value and expectations of the IV Program experience and activities, and participants' future plans as a result of their program experience.

The Findings Section will present the results related to these survey themes to demonstrate how the IV Program Special Initiative projects helped meet the ECA counter-terrorism goals.

IV. FINDINGS

"As we studied individual stories of visitors [to the United States], I think it is fair to say we found they are often transforming...lives change, attitudes evolve, biases fall away."

Charlotte Beers, Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Keynote Address at the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) Annual Conference, March 14, 2002.

The following results information combines quantitative and qualitative data to give a comprehensive picture of how effective the IV Program Special Initiative projects were in generally addressing and supporting ECA's counter-terrorism goals. Indeed, the survey findings clearly indicate transformations experienced by the majority of the participants as a result of their IV Program experience in the United States.

Impact of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks underlined the urgent need for focusing more on public diplomacy, or citizen-to-citizen diplomacy, as a central element of U.S. foreign policy and using exchanges as a mechanism for combating terrorism and global anti-American sentiment. Accordingly,

the IV Program Special Initiative projects incorporated terrorism-related and September 11-related discussions and activities. The survey instrument also contained questions related to these topics.

For example, participants rated on a **scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (to a great extent)** the extent to which the program experience *increased their understanding of the impact of the terrorist attacks*. The **percentage of those reporting a “4” or a “5” and the average ratings** are reported in the table below.

Responses	Percentage Reporting 4 or 5	Average Rating on a Scale of 1 to 5
<i>To what extent did the IV Program experience increase your understanding of the impact of September 11 and terrorism on:</i>		
The people of the United States	88%	4.40
Global peace and security	84%	4.31

Most participants were given the opportunity to visit one or both sites of the terrorist attacks in the United States – Ground Zero in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Of those that visited these sites, **51%** indicated the visit to **Ground Zero** was “extremely valuable” while **49%** indicated the visit to **the Pentagon** as “extremely valuable.”

Participants’ comments further convey their support of U.S. efforts to combat global terrorism, as well as their sympathy toward Americans in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

“The visit to Ground Zero was very emotional, especially seeing the photos of the victims. As for the discussions on terrorism, the officials at the State Department gave a very balanced view of how to deal with the terrorism issue, and made a great effort to explain that the U.S. government does not equate terrorism with a specific region or race (in this case, Arabs and Muslims).”

“I was shocked when we went to the Empire State Building in New York. I saw where the World Trade Center was. I felt like Americans living in New York would. The two biggest buildings in town were totally disintegrated. I imagined if it happened in my country, if a symbol of our country was attacked while people were inside. Then I felt pain.”

“Whoever wants to live in peace and security must fight terrorism, even if in belief... As for September 11, what happened was a crime against humanity and an attack against innocent civilians who have nothing to do with politics at all.”

“We saw how much the terrorist act had an impact on the American people and how life [in the United States] changed after September 11.”

International Relations and Mutual Understanding

Participants indicated their belief that the IV Program experience fosters international relations and mutual understanding among people and among countries. Participants were asked on a **scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (to a great extent)** to rate the extent to which the program experience *helped to promote these public diplomacy goals*. The **percentage of those reporting a “4” or a “5” and the average ratings** are reported in the table on the next page.

Response Statements	Percentage Reporting 4 or 5	Average Rating on a Scale of 1 to 5
<i>The IV Program experience helped to (or will help to):</i>		
Promote closer relations between the United States and your country or region	65%	3.99
Strengthen ties between people of the United States and people of your country	75%	4.10
Promote mutual understanding and mutual respect among peoples	72%	4.01

When asked if *international exchanges are an important long-term investment in global peace and security*, **96%** of participants indicated that they “**agreed**” or “**strongly agreed**” with the statement (22.6% agreed and 73.8% strongly agreed).

Notwithstanding these positive survey results related to the role of international exchanges and the IV Program in the promotion of international relations, several comments offered by participants also indicate the complexity of views related to the effectiveness of the IV Program experience in promoting international relations and mutual understanding.

“Because of this program, I learned that I must differentiate between the policies of the state and the people. This is a basic point because it prevents us from hating an entire society because of their government’s foreign policy. This will force me to say that the human side will dominate my future activities.”

“I realized that most of the U.S. citizens do not know much about my country and its people, the reason why it is important to concentrate more on people-to-people contact.”

Increase Understanding of the United States

Participants universally reported an increase in understanding and changes in their perceptions of the United States in general, the government and policies of the United States, and other aspects related to life in the United States and American values, beliefs and ways of living.

Participants were asked on a **scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (to a great extent)** to rate the extent to which the program experience helped to *increase their understanding of various aspects of the United States*. The **percentage of those reporting a “4” or a “5” and the average ratings** are reported in the table below.

Response Topics	Percentage Reporting 4 or 5	Average Rating on a Scale of 1 to 5
<i>The IV Program experience helped to increase your understanding of:</i>		
The United States, in general	81%	4.20
The people and culture of the United States	86%	4.32
The U.S. government and politics	72%	3.88
U.S. foreign policy	61%	3.79
The United States’ bilateral relationship with your country	52%	3.55
U.S. values	75%	3.92
U.S. democracy and institutions	78%	4.22
Religion in the United States	62%	3.86
Diversity in the United States	84%	4.41
Diversity of opinions in the United States	85%	4.42
International issues, in general	75%	4.05

In addition, when asked if *the IV Program helped to provide a more informed and broader perspective of the United States*, **89%** of participants reported a **rating of 4 or 5**.

The next table illustrates the percentage of those participants that **“agreed” or “strongly agreed” with other statements about the United States**.

Response Statements	Percentage
The rights of religious and ethnic groups are protected in the U.S.	74%
The U.S. views its bilateral relationship with my country as important	55%
The U.S. is interested in building partnerships with my country	64%

As a result of their IV Program experiences and firsthand exposure to the United States, participants offered very compelling and eloquent comments when speaking about changes in their overall perceptions and new understandings of the United States.

“Everything in my life has now changed – my perspective on world views, culture, religion, conflicts, and how they are addressed has been enhanced.”

“My perceptions deepened regarding the true democracy found in the U.S. We came as guests only and we still were allowed to criticize everything freely.”

“I used to look at the United States in a different way, like some media people picture it in our Arab countries, and at other times I didn’t really care about it [the USA]. But after this visit, I am obsessed with the USA. I fell in love with it and lived a unique experience in it.”

“I feel I have now an ‘objective’ and balanced view of the United States. It is extremely important for me as an academic.”

“I learned about America from Americans. America is diversity.”

Increase Understanding of Americans

Participants were asked to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with various statements about Americans. The table below illustrates the percentage of those participants that **“agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statements about the Americans they met in the United States**.

Response Statements	Percentage
<i>Americans I met in the United States:</i>	
Were willing to share information with me	93%
Shared information that is relevant to my work	79%
Were willing to listen to me and appreciated the information I shared	92%
Have little understanding of my country	71%
Have little knowledge of foreign affairs, in general	49%
Are interested in building partnerships with my country	55%
I believe I have had an impact on the Americans I met in the U.S.	65%
Americans value volunteerism	74%

Participants offered numerous comments to further illustrate their views and changed perceptions of Americans as a direct result of their IV Program experience and firsthand exposure to and interaction with the people they met in the United States.



Participants from the “Working for Peaceful Change in a Democratic Society” project in Madison, Wisconsin.

“Before I used to blame the American people for everything that happens in the world. Now, perhaps, I know how much effort the American people and [U.S.] policy exerts to help the people of the world. I see that it can do more to create world peace around the world.”

“My negative feelings about Americans have been reduced astonishingly. And this has only been possible by seeing the Americans closely.”

“I learned about the tolerance of the American people. I also learned from the State Department officials that there is concern for my country but we never feel this American concern for our country.”

“The greatest surprise for me was to be tolerated [as an] Arab in Manhattan.”

“I think the majority of people in the United States care for our country and peace in the world.”

“I think the most surprising and memorable experience that I have is the way Americans value their individual dignity that they have and the spirit of volunteerism within them.”

Increase Understanding of Professional Themes

The IV Program Special Initiative projects were designed for a diverse group of individuals, ranging from university students to mid-level and high-level professionals, all of whom are in positions to engage and influence other people and institutions in their home countries. In addition to receiving information about the United States, these individuals received more specific information about their professional interests related to the media, government and media relations, civic responsibility, democracy building, conflict resolution, role of religion and U.S. foreign policy. The participants were also given opportunities to engage in substantive discussions with their American counterparts about these themes.

For each project, participants were asked on a **scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (to a great extent)** to rate *the extent to which the program experience helped to increase their understanding of various professional themes*. The **average ratings** for a sampling of professional themes covered in the ten projects are illustrated in the table on the next two pages. The number of participant respondents (**N=**) is next to the project titles.

Special Initiative Projects and Professional Themes	Average Rating on a Scale of 1 to 5
1. Independent Media and Foreign Policy Coverage (N=5)	
<i>The IV Program experience helped to increase your understanding of:</i>	
The role of the free press in the United States	4.80
U.S. media coverage of political and foreign policy issues	4.20
Professional aspects of local and/or regional broadcast and print journalism in the United States	4.60
Ethnic and religious diversity in the United States	3.80
Role of Islam in the United States	3.80
2. The Role and Responsibility of the Media in a Democratic Society (N=3)	
The nature and functions of the press in the United States	3.67
The role of the press in the democratic process	4.00
American political and decision-making processes	4.67
U.S. efforts to combat terrorism as a result of briefings by U.S. political leaders	5.00
3. Student Leaders and Civic Responsibility (N=11)	
The active involvement of student leaders on university campuses in the U.S.	4.27
Development of skills necessary for future leadership roles	4.36
The role of critical thinking, decision-making, and communication and organization skills in building leadership capacity	4.09
4. Government-Media Relations and Security Issues (N=3)	
The dynamics of government-media relations in a system with an Independent and free media	5.00
The importance of professionalism of press/public affairs offices in dealing with sensitive issues (e.g., law enforcement, defense matters, foreign affairs, etc.)	4.67
General issues of mutual interest to the United States and Central Asian countries	4.33
5. Journalism in Society (N=8)	
Journalism ethics in the United States	4.38
Role of journalists in providing accurate, balanced and objective information to the public	4.00
6. Civic Journalism (N=9)	
The force of public debate in a democratic society	4.78
The social and political power in modern media	4.33
Media techniques that help strengthen society, improve transparent governance and increase equal opportunities	4.22
7. Conflict Resolution (N=5)	
The ways that American communities address racial, ethnic and religious conflict	4.60
History of civil rights in the United States	4.20
Protection of minority rights	4.40
8. Foreign Policy Issues (N=9)	
U.S. foreign policy-making	4.22
U.S. policies towards the home region of the participants	4.00
Freedom of the press, ethics, fairness and U.S. First Amendment rights	4.00

Special Initiative Projects and Professional Themes (continued)	Average Rating on a Scale of 1 to 5
9. Role of Religion in America (N=9)	
<i>The IV Program experience helped to increase your understanding of:</i>	
Religion in the United States (its complexity, variety and vitality)	5.00
The relationship between religion and politics in the United States	4.56
America's long-standing commitment to religious pluralism and freedom	4.67
10. Working for Peaceful Change in a Democratic Society (N=20)	
New strategies and methods for getting societal leaders to pay attention to the youth voice	3.30
The ways in which American policymakers and lawmakers listen to the Concerns of American youth	3.10
The ways in which American political parties, religious organizations and civic groups change policies and effect change in general	3.95

When asked if *the IV Program helped to develop an interest in professional collaboration with people they met in the United States*, **91%** of participants reported a **rating of 4 or 5**.

Comments provided by some respondents further demonstrate their increased understanding of their professional field or interests as a result of their exposure to the United States and dialogue with their professional counterparts.

“Now I feel that I can articulate the facts of U.S. foreign policy in a skillful manner and [that] elements of misconception will be reduced automatically.”

“I’ve learned a lot about the word “secularism” which has been misunderstood by people in my community that American society sets aside or doesn’t care about religion or doesn’t pay any attention to religion. But what I learned is [the] opposite.”

“Although our meetings/interactions with Muslim professors in different universities were very short [they were] able to share their good experiences in America and I may say that ‘democracy’ is important for peace to prevail.”

“My overall perception [of the United States] has changed to the extent that I found out the message from the media did not necessarily reflect the thinking of the people.”

Provide and Share Information

The ultimate goal of any exchange opportunity is that “both sides” benefit from the exchange of new information and sharing of diverse perspectives and ways of doing things. In the case of the IV Program Special Initiatives projects, this logic was fundamental to the design of the projects and their ultimate success – that Americans learn from and about the project participants just as the International Visitor participants learn from and about the Americans they meet in the United States.

This reciprocal and free exchange of information and sharing of diverse experiences and perspectives helps “preserve the peace by building good relations.” Indeed, this is what promotes the goal of mutual understanding, and ultimately mutual respect, while countering misperceptions, negative sentiments and “myths.” As one participant remarked (see next page):

“My visit cleared up many things for me. The United States, for me, has become a country I can visit in the future. It is no longer just a mythological place.”

To promote dialogue and the exchange of information, the projects incorporated several opportunities for participants to share information about themselves and their home country with the people they met or interacted with in the United States. In this way, Americans became better informed about the foreign visitors, their perspectives and their home countries and regions. Participants indicated that they were able to share this type of information in numerous settings during their program in the United States, as indicated in the following table.



Settings for Sharing Information (Indicate all that apply.)	Percentage
<i>Participants shared information about their home countries during:</i>	
Professional meetings or appointments	85%
Presentations or lectures to U.S. community groups or schools/universities	77%
Interviews with U.S. media	26%
Homestay or home hospitality	67%
Social or casual discussions with non-program contacts (e.g., Americans met in restaurants, stores, on the street, at cultural events, bus drivers, etc.)	73%

Participants were asked if they thought they were *able to better inform Americans about their home countries and regions* during these information-sharing opportunities, and **80%** reported “yes.”

Types of Information

Participants indicated some types of general information about the United States and Americans that they gained during their program and plan to share with others in their home countries, including:

- Most Americans do not associate the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with Islam
- How the U.S. government sees the world after September 11, 2001
- The U.S. democratic system and ideas and outlooks of Americans
- The role of the media and religion in the U.S.
- American way of life, culture and minority communities
- Aspects of each U.S. community experienced
- Differences between the large cities and the heartland of America
- Information to balance the perceptions about American people [in the home country]
- What the U.S. government and U.S. citizens think about [the home country] and its society, politics and religion
- Common people in the U.S. are open and ready to understand [our] problems
- Information about freedom, justice, democracy and pluralism in the U.S.
- Differences between the positions of Americans and their government’s policies
- Freedom of opinion and thought; the opportunity for dialogue and debate
- Respect for law and order; tolerance and the willingness to listen to others’ opinions
- Americans are friendly, kind, tolerant and smart; Americans are very ethical people
- Separation of church and state, and the freedom of religion (First Amendment)
- The spirit of volunteerism among the people in the U.S.

Participants reported that they intend to share information about the United States, or ideas acquired while in the United States, **with their professional colleagues (98%); family and friends (98%); and home community (93%).**

Comments from a few participants illustrate both their increased or new understanding acquired from their IV Program experience, and their intention of sharing that information upon return to their home countries.

“I want to share this information among my professional environments and neighbors and counter biased information/issues straining the two countries’ bilateral ties.”

“I will share with my professional colleagues information about American foreign policy because I know that many [of my] colleagues understand it the wrong way. The American way, they did it – it worked. Why don’t we do the same to become more achieving of our goals and aims.”

“[I will share] that there are many faces of America. That we can’t simply learn [about] the U.S. from [a] distance. We have to understand her from inside out.”

Just as the reciprocal and open exchange of information and experiences is key to promoting mutual understanding and mutual respect, sustaining professional and personal relationships initiated during the exchange program best ensures “good relations” among people and countries long after the exchange ends. To address this long-term goal, participants were asked if they intend to remain in contact with people associated with their program and other U.S. exchange programs, and their responses were overwhelmingly “Yes.”

Responses	Percentage
<i>Yes, I intend to stay in contact with:</i>	
U.S. Embassy staff [in the home country]	91%
Fellow IV Program Special Initiative project participants	94%
Americans met during the program	93%
IV Program alumni and/or alumni of other U.S. exchange programs in the home country	70%

Value and Expectations of the IV Program Experience and Activities

Survey results also demonstrate that the majority of participants on these projects believe the IV Program experience will be of great value to them in the future. On a **professional level, 69%** of the participants indicated that the program would be “**extremely valuable**,” while **68%** indicated the program would be “**extremely valuable**” to them **personally**. One respondent summed it up best:

“The visit generally will be etched in my memory forever. The program is one of the most important things I ever did in my life.”

Participants were also asked to indicate how valuable *specific program activities* were. Of all the activities experienced, participants reported that their **professional meetings or appointments were the most valuable**. However, as the table on the next page indicates, participants also valued participating in cultural events, as well as their opportunities to dialogue and engage with “real Americans” during school and community speaking opportunities, and while visiting with Americans in their homes.

Types of Program Activities	Percentage Reporting “extremely valuable”
<i>Indicate how valuable the following program activities were to you:</i>	
Meetings with professional counterparts and experts	74%
Speaking opportunities (at schools, universities, organizations, etc.)	60%
Dinner/overnight stay at someone’s home	45%
Cultural events (site visits, tours, plays, concerts, sporting events, etc.)	48%

Several respondents further elaborated about the program activities they considered most valuable, as illustrated by the following comments.

“In my view, the most interesting and valuable part of this program was the dinner/overnight stay with an American family. It was a unique educational and unforgettable experience for me. Such experiences are the foundation of friendships and a more peaceful world.”

“The speaking opportunities exposed just how kind and good-hearted the American people are, and how tolerant they are in accepting others’ opinions in all openness. [These] opportunities showed us just how deep democratic education runs among the Americans.”

Participants also felt that the program either **met their expectations (60%)** or **exceeded their expectations (40%)**. No participant indicated that the program “failed to meet” his/her expectations. Two respondents commented:

“[The IV Program] exceeded my wildest dreams, and I had expected a lot to begin with. I found the tolerance of and love of the American people and how much it respects my people. The program has forced me to described the American people by everything that’s true about it.”

“The IV Program met my expectations to develop my understanding of diversity of opinion in the United States.”

Participants’ Future Plans

Participants were asked to comment on how they intend to use the newly acquired information or their overall program experience when they return to their home countries. Intentions expressed by several participants indicate the successful delivery of the information and experience by program organizers, as well as participants’ motivation to put the experience and acquired information “to use” or to influence others by sharing new information and experiences gained in the United States.

In general, participants reported plans to write books or articles about their U.S. experiences, to maintain long-term contact with their “new-found friends and contacts in the U.S.” and to clarify “America and its people” to those in their home countries. Participants also reported plans to “replicate” various ideas gained from the United States and from their professional meetings with U.S. counterparts, and to share their new “message of understanding learned from American society.” As conveyed by several participants:

“I will start from scratch; I will start as if I never worked before.”

“The experience would certainly help in reporting foreign policy issues.”

“[I plan to] give a better understanding about American society in my public speeches, writings, and seminars; and enhance interfaith dialogues.”

“I want to write a book on ‘New Understanding of American Nation.’”

“[I intend] to be more active in volunteerism and human rights...and clarify America and its people to [everyone] that I know.”

Summary of Findings

The quantitative and qualitative data obtained from the evaluation indicate that the IV Program Special Initiative projects were highly successful in meeting the ECA counter-terrorism goals. Briefly summarized below are the key findings of the evaluation as they relate to the ECA counter-terrorism goals.

- The IV Program Special Initiative projects were successful in conveying accurate and balanced information about, and increasing participants’ understanding of, the **impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks** on the United States, on Americans and on global peace and security. Through firsthand experiences at Ground Zero and/or the Pentagon, and engaging in dialogue with Americans, participants were also better able to sympathize with Americans and express their support of the fight against terrorism in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.
- The projects significantly contributed to the ECA and public diplomacy goals of **promoting closer international relations and mutual understanding and respect**. Participants overwhelmingly reported that their IV Program experience will help promote these goals. In addition, 96 percent of the respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that *international exchanges are an important long-term investment in global peace and security*.
- Participants universally reported that their program experience helped to increase their general **understanding of the United States and Americans**. As a result of their firsthand exposure and experiences, participants noted having a better understanding of the U.S. government and U.S. foreign policy, of democracy and freedom of speech, of U.S. values, and diversity and religion in the United States. In addition, participants demonstrated changed perceptions of Americans, having experienced the openness, kindness and tolerance of Americans, and learned that Americans do not necessarily agree with their government and its policies. Reciprocal benefits of these exchanges were also demonstrated in that 65 percent of the participants believe they had an impact on the Americans they met in the United States.
- Participants were also able to increase their **understanding of various aspects of their professional fields and interests**. They overwhelmingly reported (99 percent) that they developed an interest in professional collaboration with their U.S. counterparts. In addition, they demonstrated significant knowledge gained in their professional fields and even reported plans to “replicate” many American ideas and techniques. One participant, in particular, reported a new understanding of U.S. foreign policy and indicated his plans to apply this understanding by *“articulat[ing] the facts of U.S. foreign policy in a skillful manner [in order that] elements of misconception will be reduced automatically.”*

- The Special Initiative projects were very successful in **providing accurate and balanced information about the United States**, and providing ample opportunities for participants to dialogue with their U.S. professional counterparts, as well as with “everyday Americans” in communities across the United States. Participants reported numerous types of information obtained and their **plans to share new information** with people in their home countries. As one participant concluded: *“I feel I have now an ‘objective’ and balanced view of the United States. It is extremely important for me as an academic.”*
- The majority of participants reported that their IV Program experience was **“extremely valuable” to them on both professional and personal levels**. While they generally considered their professional meetings the most valuable program activity, they also placed significant value on their participation in cultural events, their speaking opportunities in local communities and their visits to American homes. In addition, 60 percent of the participants reported that the program “met their expectations” while 40 percent reported it “exceeded their expectations.”

V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of this evaluation, the IV Program Special Initiative projects have significantly contributed to ECA’s counter-terrorism goals. The aggregated results of the ten projects clearly demonstrate that the International Visitor participants received accurate and balanced information about the United States, increased and deepened their understanding of the United States and Americans through dialogue and information-sharing, and experienced many profound changes in their views and perceptions of the United States and Americans as a result of their IV Program experience. In addition, participants demonstrated a new understanding of the impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States and of our nation’s response – on a national and local level.

By design, the IV Program consists of professional and personal dialogue between the people of the United States and foreign countries. Forging professional contacts and personal connections are a result, which thereby demonstrate the effectiveness, value and power of people-to-people exchanges in promoting professional collaboration, mutual understanding and global peace and security. The IV Program Special Initiative projects, in particular, have proven to be successful mechanisms for not only educating participants about our nation and its people, but also in helping to combat anti-American sentiment in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

Fundamental to all exchanges is the hope that prejudices, misperceptions and misunderstandings will be reduced through personal connections. The evaluation results illustrate that groups of predominantly Muslim leaders came to the United States shortly following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and experienced the United States and “real Americans” in a unique way that helped reduce some of their negative feelings and misperceptions about our nation and our people. Although the evaluation did not survey the American hosts, it is our hope that Americans, too, have learned about and from their Muslim visitors and – as a result – Americans’ prejudices, misperceptions and misunderstandings toward the Muslim world have likewise been reduced by our exposure to “real Muslims.”

The evaluation results are based on *immediate assessments* provided by 85 of 95 participants from the ten IV Program Special Initiative projects. Therefore, it is recommended that a follow-up study be conducted in the future with the same participants in order to learn if these assessments (i.e., participants’ new understandings and changed perceptions) are sustained over time and to learn whether the International Visitors proceeded with their planned future activities, as reported in this evaluation.



Participants in a working session in Madison, Wisconsin.



Participants engaged in a professional appointment at the Council on Foreign Relations.



Participants on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

APPENDIX A

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Participants were asked if there was anything that they had wanted to experience during their IV Program but did not have the opportunity to do so. The following participant responses will help the Office of International Visitors in planning future projects similar to the Special Initiative projects.

Independent Media and Foreign Policy Coverage

1. There was limited free access to the Internet, which is important to us as journalists.
2. To meet with more representatives of American culture.

Role and Responsibility of the Media in a Democratic Society

1. Include a visit to CNN and an exchange of views with some of their journalists.
2. Include a professional sporting event (e.g., an NBA basketball game).

Student Leaders and Civic Responsibility

1. Allow the participants to integrate more with the local U.S. communities.
2. Incorporate more formal, official visits (e.g., with the Bush Administration, the State Department and the Pentagon).
3. Incorporate a homestay to allow participants to share in American family life.
4. Include more diversified cities on the itinerary.
5. Include meetings with ethnic groups, especially Native Americans and Jewish people.

Government-Media Relations and Security Issues

1. Include a visit to American TV companies (e.g., CNN, CBS, and others) and an opportunity to meet some American celebrity journalists.

Journalism in Society

1. Incorporate a homestay opportunity.
2. Include a visit to a media conglomerate (with television, radio, and print media holdings) and a meeting with media owners.
3. Add opportunities for more interaction with local communities.

Civic Journalism

1. Incorporate designated time for the participants to transfer knowledge among themselves.

Conflict Resolution

1. Incorporate a homestay opportunity.
2. Include more simulation activities on conflict management.
3. Allow for more exposure to economic development initiatives in the Filipino-American community.

Foreign Policy Issues

No recommendations were provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS (Continued)

Role of Religion in America

1. Include an overnight home-stay and a visit to Ground Zero.
2. Include a specific session (during the day) at the end of each city/state visit for discussions among the participants.
3. Include more formal opportunities to allow participants to talk about their home countries with the media and in schools and universities.
4. Include meetings with a wider variety of religious leaders (e.g., Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jewish leaders) and not just with Christian leaders. Include meeting(s) with American Bishops.
5. More interaction with diverse groups in local communities (e.g., the Amish group in Akron, OH).
6. Include topics such as religious liberty, global security, and U.S. foreign policy and its relationship with religion.

Working for Peaceful Change in a Democratic Society

1. Opportunities to experience more American culture (e.g., festivals, performances and traditional American holidays).
2. More interaction with American youth groups and organizations.
3. More discussions with “real Americans” and not just government officials.
4. American professional sporting events.
5. Visit to the Southern (Bible Belt) states.
6. More meetings with women’s rights groups.
7. Make the program longer in order to spend more time in each state visited.
8. A visit to The White House.
9. An opportunity to visit the poorer areas in cities in order to learn how U.S. policies to eradicate poverty compare to my government’s policies.
10. Home hospitality – an overnight stay in an American home.
11. More in-depth discussions with U.S. government officials about U.S. foreign policy.

APPENDIX B

END-OF-PROJECT SURVEY (WITH RESPONSE FREQUENCIES)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM
END-OF-PROJECT SURVEY
[With Response Frequencies]**

Project Title: _____

ECA/PE/V Program Branch: _____

Project Dates: _____

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the International Visitor Program, the U.S. Department of State would appreciate your completing this survey. Please take a few minutes to inform us about your exchange experience and feel free to offer comments on any aspect of the exchange. **Your responses are voluntary.**

Thank you in advance for your comments and suggestions. Your input is highly valued.

***Please return your completed survey to the English Language Officer or Interpreter
for your program before departing the United States (or to the Department of State
Program Officer at the Closing Session).***

Please print all responses and write as legibly as possible. Thank you.

Your Name (Optional): _____

Your Home Country: _____

Your Professional Position in Your Home Country: _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average forty-five (45) minutes to respond to this survey, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Responses to this package are voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The U.S. Department of State regularly monitors its international exchange programs, gathers data about program accomplishments, and evaluates selected ones. The information gathered is used by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) to inform program design, management, and funding. This evaluation is conducted pursuant to the mandate given to the U.S. Department of State under the terms and conditions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, P.L. 87-256. Please send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to: A/RPS/DIR, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

1. a: What was your **primary professional interest** in participating in the International Visitor Program (IV Program)?

- b: What aspect (part) of your IV Program **best met** your professional interest?

- c: How do you **intend to use this new information or experience** when you return home (For example: new activities or projects you plan to begin)?

2. Please indicate **how valuable** each of the following activities was to you during your IV Program.
[Check one number for each item.]

	Not Valuable		Somewhat Valuable		Extremely Valuable	Did Not Experience
a) Meetings with professional counterparts and experts	1	2	3 11.8% (10)	4 14.1% (12)	5 74.1% (63)	N/A
b) Speaking opportunities (at schools, universities, civic organizations, etc.)	1 1.2% (1)	2 3.6% (3)	3 15.7% (13)	4 19.3% (16)	5 60.2% (50)	N/A
c) Lunch/dinner at someone's home	1	2 2.0% (1)	3 28.0% (14)	4 24.0% (12)	5 46.0% (23)	N/A
d) Overnight stay at someone's home	1	2	3 18.8% (3)	4 37.5% (6)	5 43.8% (7)	N/A
e) Cultural events (site visits, tours, plays, concerts, sporting events, etc.)	1	2 3.6% (2)	3 19.3% (16)	4 28.9% (24)	5 48.2% (40)	N/A
f) Visit to "Ground Zero" in New York City	1	2 5.1% (2)	3 23.1% (9)	4 20.5% (8)	5 51.3% (20)	N/A
g) Visit to the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia	1	2 5.5% (3)	3 21.8% (12)	4 23.6% (13)	5 49.1% (27)	N/A
g) Visit to the NCIV Conference	1	2	3 37.5% (3)	4 50.0% (4)	5 12.5% (1)	N/A
g) Dinner/Overnight stay at someone's home	1	2	3 23.1% (6)	4 23.1% (6)	5 53.8% (14)	N/A

Of the activities you participated in from the list above, what was the **most significant** to you and why?

3. To what extent did you have opportunities to **share information about your home country or region** with people you met in the United States? [Please circle one number for professional contacts and one number for non-professional (non-program) contacts for each item.]

Your country's or region's	Information Shared with Professional Contacts					Information Shared with Non-Professional Contacts				
	Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent	Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
a) General information	1 1.2% (1)	2 4.8% (4)	3 43.4% (36)	4 25.3% (21)	5 25.3% (21)	1 1.3% (1)	2 2.5% (2)	3 33.8% (27)	4 31.3% (25)	5 31.3% (25)
b) Culture, society and values	1 4.9% (4)	2 12.2% (10)	3 35.4% (29)	4 25.6% (21)	5 22.0% (18)	1 1.3% (1)	2 9.1% (7)	3 28.6% (22)	4 29.9% (23)	5 31.2% (24)
c) Government and domestic politics	1 5.2% (4)	2 10.8% (9)	3 28.9% (24)	4 38.6% (32)	5 21.7% (18)	1 5.2% (4)	2 10.4% (8)	3 33.8% (26)	4 24.7% (19)	5 26.0% (20)
d) Foreign policy	1 4.9% (4)	2 13.6% (11)	3 34.6% (28)	4 23.5% (19)	5 23.5% (19)	1 6.5% (5)	2 19.5% (15)	3 35.1% (27)	4 22.1% (17)	5 16.9% (13)
e) Relations with the United States	1 2.5% (2)	2 11.1% (9)	3 18.5% (15)	4 32.1% (26)	5 35.8% (29)	1 1.3% (1)	2 11.7% (9)	3 31.2% (24)	4 28.6% (22)	5 27.3% (21)
f) Religion	1 9.8% (8)	2 11.0% (9)	3 28.0% (23)	4 26.8% (22)	5 24.4% (20)	1 6.5% (5)	2 11.7% (9)	3 27.3% (21)	4 22.1% (17)	5 32.5% (25)
g) View of global issues	1 1.2% (1)	2 2.5% (2)	3 29.6% (24)	4 34.6% (28)	5 32.1% (26)	1 2.7% (2)	2 13.3% (10)	3 32.0% (24)	4 20.0% (15)	5 32.0% (24)

4. To what extent did you have opportunities to share information about your **area of professional interest** with people you met in the United States? [Circle one.]

Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
1 1.2% (1)	2 4.9% (4)	3 34.6% (28)	4 35.8% (29)	5 23.5% (19)

5. **In what settings** did you share this information about your home country during your visit to the United States? [Check all that apply.]

- a) Professional meetings or appointments ☐ 84.7% (72)
- b) Presentations or lectures to U.S. community groups or schools/universities ☐ 76.5% (65)
- c) Interviews with U.S. media ☐ 25.9% (22)
- d) Homestay or home hospitality ☐ 66.7% (36)
- e) Social or casual discussions with non-program contacts ☐ 72.9% (62)
- (For example: Americans you met in restaurants, stores, on the street, at cultural events, driving your bus/van, etc.)
- f) Other [Please specify.] _____ ☐ 22.3% (19)

6. Do you think you were able to better **inform Americans about your home country or region** as a result of sharing information? [Circle one.]

Definitely No		Not Sure		Definitely Yes
1	2	3	4	5
	1.2%	18.8%	40.0%	40.0%
	(1)	(16)	(34)	(34)

Comment:

7. a: Do you intend to **share information** about the United States, or ideas you acquired while in the United States, with others in your home country? [Circle one number for each item.]

	No	Yes	Don't Know
a) Professional colleagues	1 1.2% (1)	2 97.6% (83)	3 1.2% (1)
b) Family and friends	1 1.2% (1)	2 97.6% (82)	3 1.2% (1)
c) Home community	1 1.2% (1)	2 92.6% (75)	3 6.2% (5)

b: What **type of information about the United States** will you share with others in your home country?

8. To what extent did **you and your fellow participants discuss your IV Program** experiences during your program? [Circle one.]

Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5
	2.4%	21.2%	27.1%	49.4%
	(2)	(18)	(23)	(42)

Comment:

9. To what extent did your IV Program experience **increase your understanding of the following themes** listed in the table. [Circle one number for each item.]

	Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
	1	2	3	4	5
Journalism ethics in the U.S.			12.5% (1)	37.5% (3)	50.0% (4)
Role of journalists in providing accurate, balanced and objective information to the public			25.0% (2)	50.0% (4)	25.0% (2)
The daily life of U.S. journalists and spokespersons			75.0% (6)	25.0% (2)	
The ways U.S. journalists are trained in schools of journalism in the United States			37.5% (3)	62.5% (5)	
The ways that American communities address racial, ethnic and religious conflict				40.0% (2)	60.0% (3)
History of civil rights in the United States			40.0% (2)		60.0% (3)
Protection of minority rights			20.0% (1)	20.0% (1)	60.0% (3)
The ways to promote global and economic development in minority communities		20.0% (1)	20.0% (1)		60.0% (3)
U.S. foreign policy-making			22.2% (2)	33.3% (3)	44.4% (4)
U.S. policies toward your region and issues of militancy, human rights, education, and conflict resolution			25.0% (2)	50.0% (4)	25.0% (2)
Freedom of the press, ethics, fairness and U.S. First Amendment rights			33.3% (3)	33.3% (3)	33.3% (3)
The social and political power in modern media			22.2% (2)	22.2% (2)	55.6% (5)
Media techniques that help bring together the private sector, the government and the non-governmental community in service of the commonwealth	22.2% (2)		33.3% (3)	11.1% (1)	33.3% (3)
Media techniques that help strengthen society, improve transparent governance and increase equal opportunities			22.2% (2)	33.3% (3)	44.4% (4)

	Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
The force of public debate in a democratic society	1	2	3 11.1% (1)	4	5 88.9% (8)
Religion in the United States (its complexity, variety and vitality)	1	2	3	4	5 100.0% (9)
The relationship between religion and politics in the United States	1	2	3	4 44.4% (4)	5 55.6% (5)
America's long-standing commitment to religious pluralism and freedom	1	2	3	4 33.3% (3)	5 66.7% (6)
The role of religion in developing stable communities and fostering common political, social, and economic goals	1	2	3 33.3% (2)	4 66.7% (4)	5
The concerns and contributions of young emerging leaders in the United States	1	2 9.1% (1)	3 9.1% (1)	4 27.3% (3)	5 54.5% (6)
The active involvement of student leaders on university campuses in the United States	1	2 9.1% (1)	3 18.2% (2)	4 9.1% (1)	5 63.6% (7)
The importance of pluralism, tolerance, and volunteerism as components of civic life among campus associations in the United States	1	2 9.1% (1)	3 18.2% (2)	4 27.3% (3)	5 45.5% (5)
Development of skills necessary for future leadership roles	1	2	3 18.2% (2)	4 27.3% (3)	5 54.5% (6)
The role of critical thinking, decision-making, and communication and organization skills in building leadership capacity	1	2 9.1% (1)	3 18.2% (2)	4 27.3% (3)	5 45.5% (5)
American perspectives on critical current issues as a result of discussions with faculty, students and public leaders in the United States	1	2	3 30.0% (3)	4 40.0% (4)	5 30% (3)
The nature and functions of the press in the United States	1	2	3 33.3% (1)	4 66.7% (2)	5
The role of the press in the democratic process	1	2	3	4 100.0% (3)	5
Current global affairs as a result of discussions with American reporters and editors	1	2	3 66.7% (2)	4 33.3% (1)	5
American political and decision-making processes	1	2	3	4 33.3% (1)	5 66.7% (2)
U.S. efforts to combat terrorism as a result of briefings by U.S. political leaders	1	2	3	4	5 100.0% (3)
New strategies and methods for getting societal leaders to pay attention to the youth voice	1	2 20.0% (4)	3 35.0% (7)	4 40.0% (8)	5 5.0% (1)

	Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
The ways in which American policymakers and lawmakers listen to the concerns of American youth	1	2 25.0% (5)	3 45.0% (9)	4 25.0% (5)	5 5.0% (1)
The ways in which American political parties, religious organizations and civic groups change policies and effect change in general	1	2	3 25.0% (5)	4 55.0% (11)	5 20.0% (4)
The dynamics of government-media relations in a system with an independent and free media	1	2	3	4	5 100.0% (3)
The importance of professionalism of press/public affairs offices in dealing with sensitive issues (e.g., law enforcement, defense matters, foreign affairs, etc.)	1	2	3	4 33.3% (1)	5 66.7% (2)
General issues of mutual interest to the United States and Central Asian countries	1	2	3 33.3% (1)	4	5 66.7% (2)
The diversity and openness of U.S. society	1	2	3	4 33.3% (1)	5 66.7% (2)
The role of the free press in the United States	1	2	3	4 20.0% (1)	5 80.0% (4)
U.S. media coverage of political and foreign policy issues	1	2	3 20.0% (1)	4 40.0% (2)	5 40.0% (2)
Professional aspects of local and/or regional broadcast and print journalism in the United States	1	2	3	4 40.0% (2)	5 60.0% (3)
Ethnic and religious diversity in the United States	1 20.0% (1)	2	3	4 40.0% (2)	5 40.0% (2)
Role of Islam in the United States	1 20.0% (1)	2	3	4 40.0% (2)	5 40.0% (2)
U.S. foreign policy issues in Central Asia and the Islamic world	1	2 20.0% (1)	3	4 40.0% (2)	5 4.0% (2)
The impact of the events of September 11 th and terrorism <i>on global peace and security</i>	1 1.5% (1)	2 1.5 (1)	3 13.4% (9)	4 31.3% (21)	5 52.2% (35)
The impact of the events of September 11 th <i>on the people of the United States</i>	1	2	3 11.9% (8)	4 35.8% (24)	5 52.2% (35)

10. To what extent did your IV Program experience help to **increase your understanding of the following aspects of the United States?** [Circle one number for each item.]

	Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
a) The United States, in general	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 17.6% (15)	4 40.5% (34)	5 40.5% (34)
b) The people and culture of the United States	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 13.1% (11)	4 38.1% (32)	5 47.6% (40)
c) U.S. government and politics	1 1.2% (1)	2 3.5% (3)	3 23.5% (20)	4 49.4% (42)	5 22.4% (19)
d) U.S. foreign policy	1 1.2% (1)	2 7.1% (6)	3 31.0% (26)	4 33.3% (28)	5 27.4% (23)
e) The United States' bilateral relationship with your country	1 4.7% (4)	2 12.9% (11)	3 30.6% (26)	4 25.9% (22)	5 25.9% (22)
f) U.S. values	1	2 9.8% (5)	3 15.7% (8)	4 47.1% (24)	5 27.5% (14)
g) U.S. democracy and institutions	1	2 2.4% (2)	3 20.0% (17)	4 30.6% (26)	5 47.1% (40)
h) Diversity in the United States	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 15.3% (13)	4 24.7% (21)	5 58.8% (50)
i) Religion in the United States	1 2.4% (2)	2 9.5% (8)	3 26.2% (22)	4 23.8% (20)	5 38.1% (32)
j) U.S. culture, society, and values	1	2	3 25.8% (8)	4 45.2% (14)	5 29.0% (9)

11. Please indicate **to what extent you agree or disagree** with the statements listed below.
[Circle one number for each item.]

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Americans I met in the United States were willing to share information with me	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 4.8% (4)	4 53.6% (45)	5 39.3% (33)	DK
Americans I met in the United States shared information that is relevant to my work	1	2 3.6% (3)	3 17.9% (15)	4 53.6% (45)	5 25.0% (21)	DK
Americans I met in the United States were willing to listen to me and appreciated the information I shared	1	2	3 7.1% (6)	4 42.4% (36)	5 49.4% (42)	DK
Americans I met in the United States have little understanding of my country	1 1.2% (1)	2 7.1% (6)	3 20.2% (17)	4 39.3% (33)	5 32.1% (27)	DK

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Americans I met in the United States have little knowledge of foreign affairs, in general	1 3.5% (3)	2 22.4% (19)	3 24.7% (21)	4 32.9% (28)	5 16.5% (14)	DK
Americans I met in the United States are interested in building partnerships with my country	1	2 3.5% (3)	3 35.3% (30)	4 42.4% (36)	5 12.9% (11)	DK 5.9% (5)
Americans value volunteerism	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 19.3% (16)	4 25.3% (21)	5 48.2% (40)	DK 6.0% (5)
I believe I have had an impact on the Americans I met in the United States	1 1.3% (1)	2 3.8% (3)	3 23.8% (19)	4 40.0% (32)	5 25.0% (20)	DK 6.3% (5)
The rights of religious and ethnic groups are protected in the United States	1 1.2% (1)	2 4.8% (4)	3 17.9% (15)	4 44.0% (37)	5 29.8% (25)	DK 1.2% (1)
The United States views its bilateral relationship with my country as important	1 1.2% (1)	2 6.0% (5)	3 31.0% (26)	4 28.6% (24)	5 26.2% (22)	DK 7.1% (6)
The United States is interested in building partnerships with my country	1 2.4% (2)	2 1.2% (1)	3 26.5% (22)	4 41.0% (34)	5 22.9% (19)	DK 6.0% (5)
International exchanges are an important long-term investment in global peace and security	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 2.4% (2)	4 22.6% (19)	5 73.8% (62)	DK

12. To what extent do you think **your IV Program experience helped to (or will help to):**
[Circle one number for each item.]

	Not at all		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent
a) Promote closer relations between the United States and your country or region.	1	2	3 35.3% (30)	4 30.6% (26)	5 34.1% (29)
b) Strengthen ties between people of the United States and people of your country.	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 23.8% (20)	4 39.3% (33)	5 35.7% (30)
c) Promote mutual understanding and mutual respect among peoples of the world.	1 2.4% (2)	2 5.9% (5)	3 20.0% (17)	4 31.8% (27)	5 40.0% (34)
d) Provide you with a more informed and broader perspective of the United States.	1	2 3.5% (3)	3 7.1% (6)	4 31.8% (27)	5 57.6% (49)
e) Enhance your understanding of diversity of opinions in the United States.	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 14.1% (12)	4 25.9% (22)	5 58.8% (50)
f) Enhance your understanding of international issues in general.	1 1.2 (1)	2 3.5% (3)	3 20.0% (17)	4 40.0% (34)	5 35.3% (30)
g) Develop an interest in professional collaboration with people you met in the U.S.	1	2 1.2% (1)	3 8.3% (7)	4 36.9% (31)	5 53.6% (45)

13. After you return to your home country, do you intend to **stay in contact with the following people**?
[Circle one number for each item.]

	No	Yes	Don't Know
a) U.S. Embassy staff	1	2 90.6% (77)	3 9.4% (8)
b) Fellow IV Program participants	1	2 94.1% (80)	3 5.9% (5)
c) Americans you met on your IV Program	1 1.2% (1)	2 92.9% (79)	3 5.9% (5)
d) IV alumni and/or alumni of other U.S. exchange programs in your country	1 2.4% (2)	2 69.5% (57)	3 28.0% (23)

Please comment:

14. In general, did the IV Program meet your expectations, fail to meet them, or exceed them?
[Check one box and comment on the next page.]

- a) Met my expectations ☐ 59.8% (49)
b) Failed to meet my expectations ☐
c) Exceeded my expectations ☐ 40.2% (33)
d)

Please comment:

15. How **valuable** do you think your IV Program experience will be for you in the future?
[Circle one number for each item.]

	Not at all Valuable		Somewhat Valuable		Extremely Valuable
a) professionally	1	2	3 11.8% (10)	4 18.8% (16)	5 69.4% (59)
b) personally	1	2	3 12.0% (10)	4 20.5% (17)	5 67.5% (56)

16. Has your **overall perception of the United States** changed as a result of your participation in the IV Program? Please explain.
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17. What, if anything, did you want to experience during your IV Program that you did **not**? Please explain.
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18. Please share with us the **single most surprising or memorable moment** of your IV Program experience in the United States (For example: what you learned about the United States or Americans, what you learned about yourself or your own country, unexpected encounters, etc). [Please use the back of this sheet if you need more space.]
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19. In the aftermath of the events of September 11th in the United States, some IV programs include visits to ground Zero in New York City and/or discussions on terrorism. If your program included either of these elements, please share your impressions with us.
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HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO ANSWER THIS SURVEY? _____MINUTES